

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 29-36 are pending in the application, claims 1-28 and 37-105 having been canceled. Claims 29-32 and 35 are allowed, and claims 33, 34 and 36 stand rejected, variously, under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102. The specific grounds for rejection, and applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

II. Objections

The examiner has objected to two additional portions of the specification as lacking proper sequence identifiers. Appropriate amendments to the specification are provided. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

A. Enablement

Claims 34 and 36 are rejected as lacking an enablement. Claim 36 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to this claim. Claim 34 has been amended to recite that the recombinant cell is "isolated," thereby excluding transgenic animals, which is believed to be the examiner's stated concern. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested. Applicants have provided new claim 106, drawn to a recombinant mouse cell lacking at least one allele encoding a mouse choline transport having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4. This claim also appears to avoid the examiner's concerns regarding "any and all transgenic" animals.

B. Written Description

Claim 36 is rejected as lacking an adequate written description. Claim 36 has been canceled, thereby overcoming the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 33 is rejected as indefinite under §112, second paragraph, for use of the term “comprised in a vector.” Amendments have been provided that remove this language, thereby overcoming the rejection.


IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 36 is rejected over one or both of Okuda *et al.* Claim 36 has been canceled, thereby overcoming the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner have any questions regarding this submission, applicants invite a call to the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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